

FCC Commissioners:

I beseech you in the strongest possible terms to postpone any decision on adjusting media ownership regulations. The consolidation trend to date distinctly has not been in the public interest and any further slackening of the regulations would be a severe detriment to the free and open exchange of ideas through this proud nation's media outlets. All of America owns the airwaves, not the conglomerates who seek to monopolize it. The fewer the owners, the more consolidated the editorial and programming direction, the more homogenized the news, the less room for in-depth, unbiased investigative reporting dealing with popular and unpopular topics, and the greater the ability of the media owners to crowd out independent production companies.

Before you consider this proposal which is clearly in the best interests of the media industry which you are duty-bound to regulate not to serve, it is crucial that the public have the opportunity to engage with you in full, open, in-depth hearings. A change of such significance should only be made with the support of the informed public, not by 5 people behind closed doors. If you believe otherwise, then perhaps you need to question for which group you're really interested in advocating.

And when a sufficient or even excessive amount of time and public debate has been encouraged and allowed to occur, I beg of you to put the public's interest first and definitively squash any initiatives that would effect further consolidation in media ownership.

Sincerely,
Heather Higgins